

Commission on Sentencing Proposed Legislation for 2017 Legislature

The commission requested the following legislation for the 2017 Legislature. The related policy options are the related justice reinvestment policy option presented to the commission as part of its work. The official LC# can be used to track the bill draft in the LAWS bill tracking system: [http://laws.leg.mt.gov/legprd/law0203w\\$.startup?P_SESS=20171](http://laws.leg.mt.gov/legprd/law0203w$.startup?P_SESS=20171)

LC#	COS#	Short Title	Description	Sponsor
552	j001	Generally revise criminal justice laws	Establishes pretrial risk assessment and deferred prosecution grant programs and allows courts to use pretrial risk assessment information; eliminates a required report from judges or justices related to drug users.	TBD
553	j002	Generally revise criminal justice laws	Revises presentence investigation laws; requiring training for corrections employees on risk assessment and evidence-based practices; requiring the department to use risk and needs assessments to drive supervision and correctional practices and to validate the risk assessment tool.	TBD
554	j003	Generally revise sentencing laws	Revises criminal sentencing laws, including drug sentences, drug education courses, persistent felony offender designation, theft and related offenses, certain mandatory minimums, and other sentencing laws.	TBD
555	j018	Generally revise criminal justice laws	Creates an oversight council to monitor and report on criminal justice legislation; creates reporting requirements for the Department of Corrections; requires the department's Quality Assurance Unit to adopt an evaluation toll to use to conduct program evaluations; requires the department to adopt an incentives/interventions grid to use for community supervision.	TBD
556	j012	Interim study of tribal resources for members involved in crim justice system	Requests an interim committee study to explore increasing access to tribal resources for tribal members who are in the state's criminal justice system.	TBD

LC#	COS#	Short Title	Description	Sponsor
557	j009	Requiring certain facilities providing behavioral health srvc's to be lic by DPHHS	Requires facilities to be licensed by the Department of Public Health and Human Services if the facility provides inpatient behavioral health treatment services and is operated by or contracts with the Department of Corrections.	TBD
558	j10B	Certification for behavioral health peer support specialists	Creates a certification process for behavioral health peer support specialists through the Board of Behavioral Health.	TBD
559	j011	Revise laws related to supervision of offenders/defendants	Revises laws related to the supervision of probationers and of defendants servicing a deferred or suspended sentence; requires the Department of Corrections to adopt an incentives/interventions grid to use for community supervision.	TBD
560	j013	Generally revise laws related to the board of pardons and parole	Revises the board's size and structure to make it a three-member, full-time board; requires the board to adopt structured parole guidelines and provide training; revises supervision and revocation processes.	TBD
561	j015	Generally revise laws regarding housing options for offenders	Creates a housing policy for the state; establishes a supportive housing grant program; allows the Department of Corrections to offer rental vouchers to certain offenders and to keep data on certain offenders.	TBD
562	j016	Generally revise the crime victims compensation act	Revises times and qualifications for claims; increases funeral benefits and adds clean up and relocation benefits.	TBD
563	j017	Generally revise offender intervention program laws	Requires Board of Crime Control to adopt statewide standards for services offered through the program; allows grant funding to be used to develop and implement standards.	TBD

Bill Drafts Considered by Commission on Sentencing but not Forwarded to the Legislature

COS Draft #	Short Title and Related Policy Option	Status
LCj006	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Revising drug treatment court laws <p>6. Expand eligibility criteria for problem-solving courts.</p>	The commission voted unanimously in September 2016 to support a similar draft proposed by a Judicial Branch advisory committee instead of pursuing this draft.
LCj007	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Generally revising laws related to community corrections facilities <p>Combines elements of two policy options: 7. Focus prison and community corrections space on those who are most likely to reoffend; and 8. Require prerelease centers to deliver more intensive evidence-based programs and treatment within a shorter time period to reduce recidivism and serve more people.</p>	The commission tabled this draft in October 2016.

Last updated October 31, 2016